

METHOD AND SYSTEM IN AN ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET FOR COMPARING SERIES OF CELLS

Abstract

5 The present invention relates to the field of information
processing by digital computers, and more particularly to a
method and system, in an electronic spreadsheet, for comparing
two series of cells, a series of cells comprising one or a
plurality of cell range, a cell range comprising one or a
plurality of cells. The method of comparing two series of
10 cells comprises the steps of:

- defining a boolean attribute, said boolean attribute having
a first and a second value;
- assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each
cell of a first series of cells;
- 15 • assigning the second value of said boolean attribute to each
cell of a second series of cells;
- determining in a first operation whether all the cells of
said first series of cells share the same first value of
said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of
said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value
20 of said boolean attribute;
- assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each
cell of the first series of cells;
- determining in a second operation whether all the cells of
25 the second series of cells share the same first value of
said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of
said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value
of said boolean attribute;
- determining whether the first series and the second series
30 are the same or are disjointed or overlap, or are included
one into the other by comparing results of the first
operation and the second operation:

- if all the cells of the first series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series are disjointed;
- if all the cells of the first series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series are the same;
- if all the cells of the first series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series is included in the second series;
- if all the cells of the first series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the second series is included in the second series;
- if all the cells of the first series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series overlap.